

AMERICAN CITIZENS SERVICES NEWSLETTER

The U.S. Embassy is transmitting the following monthly newsletter via its warden system as a public service to U.S. citizens in Mongolia. Please feel free to disseminate this message to U.S. citizens in your organizations or to other Americans you know.



Town Hall Meeting for American Citizens in Mongolia

On January 22, 2010 the Consular Section held a Town Hall Meeting for American Citizens to welcome Ambassador Addleton back in Mongolia. The Town Hall Meeting is a part of the Consular Section's outreach program within the worldwide Consular Affairs' "Americans Abroad" month.

Despite minus 20 F weather outside, we had a good turnout: 46 unofficial American citizens and Mongolian parents of Am-cit children and 24 official Americans (Embassy employees and their spouses) were present at the meeting.

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The meeting started with Ambassador Addleton's welcome speech. Ambassador mentioned his previous experience in Mongolia, outlined the assistance programs recently launched by Millenium Challenge Corporation and USAID, and described the joint operations of US DOD and Mongolian troops.

The panel of cross sections of the Embassy gave short presentations of the different sections' activities.

Consul Bob Pope presented the Consular Section and told the participants about the services and assistance we provide to American Citizens.

The Town Hall participants were given a chance to ask questions and discuss any issues of interest. The questions were mostly addressed to the Consular section and ranged from registration with the Embassy to adoption of Mongolian children.

After the official program ended, many participants stayed for refreshments and a chance to meet each other and to discuss individual concerns with Embassy staff.

Thank; to all those who participated!

Town Hall Meeting on January 22, 2010 (cont'd)

Consular section appreciates all the Questions asked at the Town Hall.

Here are the links where you can find detailed information:

[Registering with the Embassy](#)

[Adoptions](#)

[Non-Immigrant Visas](#)

[Crisis Preparedness](#) (check also the Role of the State Department in Crisis Abroad)

[Summer Work & Travel](#)



Become a fan of **U.S. Embassy Ulaanbaatar, Consular Section** on Facebook.

Americans are Encouraged to take the FSOT in Mongolia

U.S. Embassy Ulaanbaatar will be administering the Foreign Service Officer Test in Mongolia in early March. American citizens interested in careers in the Foreign Service are encouraged to visit <http://careers.state.gov> to learn more about what the Foreign Service does and to register online for the test.

The deadline for registering for the test is February 19th, 2010.

Temporary Reorganization in the Consular Section in March–April 2010

Consul Bob Pope has completed his tour in Mongolia and will be returning to the USA in the beginning of March. Consul Chris Anderson will be on leave from late February until late April.

During their absence we will have temporary coverage: John Morgan from Beijing and Jamie Fouss from Guangzhou. There will be no interruption in ACS or other services during that time.

TSAGAAN SAR, THE LUNAR NEW YEAR

Tsagaan Sar, or White Month, is one of Mongolia's two major and long-awaited holidays, the other being Naadam in July. For Mongols, Tsagaan Sar is not only an ancient holiday marking the end of winter and the beginning of a new year's cycle, but is also a time for unification and reinforcing social bonds.

Preparations for the festive start well ahead of time. Several families usually gather in the eldest man's gher, where the holiday will take place.

Bituun - last dinner of the outgoing year. *Bituun* takes place on the last day of the lunar month. Beforehand, all the business of the past year must be wrapped up; debts paid and good relationships restored.

In daily life Mongols frequently exchange gifts. For Mongols a gift expresses feelings rather than words. The price of the gift is not important, for it expresses respect, sympathy, friendliness and wishes for health. Visitors may arrive with a gift, especially when visiting a family with children or old men. Candy for children, some milk or dairy products for elders are enough. If unprepared for a visit, it is all right to give little money to children to buy candies.

Taboos of Tsagaan Sar

Do not wear a black deel.

Do not formally greet your husband or wife.

Do not get a haircut.

Do not wash or mend old clothes.

Do not borrow anything from another ger.

Don't call a man by his nickname, argue, hunt

or kill cattle.

Don't eat before the host allows it.

Don't get drunk.

Don't wear a knife or weapon.

Don't stay the night in another ger.



FBI issues warning on Internet Scams following Haiti Earthquake

The FBI reminds Internet users who receive appeals to donate money in the aftermath of the earthquake in Haiti to apply a critical eye and do their due diligence before responding to those requests. Past tragedies and natural disasters have prompted individuals with criminal intent to solicit contributions purportedly for a charitable organization and/or a good cause. Information on Internet scams is available at the following link: <http://www.fbi.gov/cyberinvest/escams.htm>

U.S. Customs and Border Protection Global Entry Program

Global Entry is a pilot program managed by U.S. Customs and Border Protection that allows pre-approved, low-risk travelers expedited clearance upon arrival into the United States. Although this program is intended for “frequent travelers” who make several international trips per year, there is no minimum number of trips an applicant must make in order to qualify. Participants may enter the United States by utilizing automated kiosks located at airports such as Washington Dulles (IAD), Los Angeles International (LAX), John F. Kennedy (JFK), Honolulu International (HNL), and many more. Currently, 20 airports are participating in Global Entry.

The process requires participants to present their machine-readable U.S. passport or permanent resident card, submit their fingerprints for biometric verification, and make a customs declaration at the kiosk’s touch-screen. Upon successful completion of the Global Entry process at the kiosk, the traveler is issued a transaction receipt and directed to baggage claim and the exit, unless chosen for a selective or random secondary referral.

Additional information, including how to enroll, is available from the Department of Homeland Security at the following website: http://www.cbp.gov/xp/cgov/travel/trusted_traveler/global_entry/

2010-2011 Voting Assistance Guide

The Consular Section has received a limited number of 2010-2011 Voting Assistance Guide. You can pick up your copy at the Consular section during ACS hours or at the American Corner at Ulaanbaatar Public Library on Seoul St.

The Guide is also available at [Federal Voting Assistance Program](#) web site.

Warden Volunteers Needed

Consular Section is looking for Warden Volunteers in Ulaanbaatar and Aimags. The role of Wardens is to inform and protect American residing in Mongolia and their families during a crisis.

If you are currently a Warden or would like to be one, please send a message to UlaanbaatarACS@state.gov

A Message to American Communities and Organizations in Mongolia

The Embassy encourages all business groups, churches, private companies, and other organizations with a nucleus of American citizens to make sure that the Embassy has a point of contact for your group.

To receive Embassy announcements and advisories via e-mail, please join the Embassy Newslist. Your membership in the Embassy Newslist will assure you of receiving Embassy issued announcements and advisories in a timely manner. Your private information will be kept strictly confidential.

Send an email to the Embassy at UlaanbaatarACS@state.gov giving the name of your organization, a point of contact (POC), email address, phone number, and any other contact information. It is not necessary that your POC be an American citizen. The Embassy will use this information to contact your group in an emergency. Please type "Group Contact Info" on the subject line of your email.

Upcoming Holidays

February 15 – President's Day

February 14-16—Tsagaan Sar

Embassy Contact Information

American Citizen Services
Embassy of the United States
11th Micro District
Big Ring Road
Ulaanbaatar 13, Mongolia
Tel: 976-11329-095
Fax: 976-11320-776
E-mail: UlaanbaatarACS@state.gov

- or -

American Embassy Ulaanbaatar
4410 Ulaan Baatar Place
Washington, DC
20521-4410



Travel Warnings and Alerts

[Haiti](#) 01/14/2010

[Pakistan](#) 01/07/2010

[India](#) 01/29/2010

[Peru](#) 01/28/2010

[Philippines](#) 01/20/2010

[Malaysia](#) 01/15/2010

For additional information about these travel warnings and alerts, please go to this site:

http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/tw/tw_1764.html

WONDERING IF THE FLIGHT IS ON TIME?

This website has virtually every flight in the world and is updated regularly. It has been used for MIAT and Korean Air flights and it has been accurate every time. <http://www.flightstats.com/>

Security Delays for U.S. Flights

Flights arriving to and departing from the United States may experience delays due to increased security measures. Passengers should plan to arrive early at airports overseas and in the U.S. For more information on these increased security measures, please see the Transportation Security Administration's website: http://www.tsa.gov/press/happenings/dec25_guidance.shtm